Arkansas Science & Technology Authority

100 Main St., Suite 450
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

http://www.state.ar.us/asta/

Press Release

To: Arkansas Media

From: Robert J. Alvey, Communications Manager
501-324-8758; fax: 501-324-9012
robert.alvey@mail.state.ar.us

CC: Governor's Office

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Re: September meeting of the Authority Board of Directors

Authority's Board Elects New Officers, Approves Funds at First FY01 Gathering

Joel Anderson, Ph.D., Provost and Vice Chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, was elected Chair of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority Board of Directors during the Board's first meeting of Fiscal Year 2001 on Friday, September 15. Dr. Anderson replaces exiting Chair Merlin Augustine, Ed.D., Financial Systems Coordinator for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

D.W. May of May and Associates, Bryant, Arkansas, and Melinda Saunders of St. Paul, Arkansas, were elected Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively. Saunders replaces Ron Roberts, Vice President and General Manager BEI Sensors & Systems Company. May filled the Vice Chair position vacated during Fiscal Year 2000 by Anthony Rampley, President of Arkansas Glass Container Corporation, Jonesboro.

Board officers' terms are for one-year.

In other business, the Board approved three draft resolutions presented by the Authority staff, led by Authority President John W. Ahlen, Ph.D.

The Board approved a Seed Capital Investment Program resolution that provides no more than $400,000 to MedEvolve, Inc., for use as partial capital for the Little Rock-based company (http://www.medevolve.com/). The resolution stipulates that $1,200,000 in capital will be derived through stockholder equity; another $100,000 must be secured from other sources, making the capital outlay $1,700,000.

MedEvolve, Inc., was incorporated in August 1998 as an Arkansas based corporation. It is involved in the development and marketing of physician office management information systems ("POMIS").

The company intends to provide, as an application service provider, Internet-based application systems and other services to physician's offices utilizing their proprietary Microsoft Windows-based practice management system, called *eCeno* Practice Management.

The second resolution passed by the Board through the Applied Research Program approved the use of no more than $65,896 for "Cotton Duck Elastomeric Pad Study" by Dr. Thomas J. Parsons of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. The project is co-sponsored by Garlock Rubber Technologies in the amount of $42,356.

Garlock Rubber Technologies produces rubber conveyor belts and other rubber related products. The company is performing research on a product they have developed for use in the bridge construction industry. Garlock, headquartered in Palmyra, NY, has a branch in Paragould; their web site is http://www.garlock.com/ .

The third resolution that was passed approved matching funds under the Arkansas Research Matching Fund Program for six research projects.

ASU[1], Jonesboro – "Phenomenology of Intermediate and High Energy Heavy-Ion Collisions" by Dr. Dr. Boa-An Li in the amount not to exceed $57,351. This project is funded federally by a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $90,002.

UA[2], Fayetteville – "Establishment of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Center of Instrumentation and Science for Planetary Surfaces" by Dr. Derek Sears in the amount not to exceed $486,329. This project is funded federally by a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $746,269.

UAMS[3], Little Rock – "Fluid Resuscitation in Controlled Hemorrhagic Shock," by Dr. Russell B. Melchert in the amount not to exceed $170,564. This project is funded federally by an Office of Naval Research DEPSCoR grant in the amount of $341,127.

UCA[4], Conway – "Acquisition of a Scanning Electron Microscope for Natural Sciences Research and Training" by Dr. Paul V. Hamilton in the amount not to exceed $58,574. This project is funded federally by a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $136,672.

UA, Fayetteville – "Development of an Instrument for Aerosol and Bacteria Analysis by Laser Desorption FTMS" by Dr. Charles Wilkins in the amount not to exceed $402,340. This project is funded federally by a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $402,340.

UA, Fayetteville – "Acquisition of a Nanolithographic Instrument for Investigations in Nanoscience" by Dr. Gregory J. Salamo in the amount not to exceed $390,000. This project is funded federally by a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of $390,000.

Following approval of minutes from its last meeting, the Board accepted the Authority's Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report, presented by the Board's Chair and the Authority's President. The Report, designed for the Internet, can be viewed at http://www.state.ar.us/asta/fy00ar.htm.

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[1] Arkansas State University
[2] University of Arkansas
[3] University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
[4] University of Central Arkansas

The Board will next meet November 17. A location and time will be announced at a later date.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority serves as a statewide funding resource for high quality scientific and technological projects. The Authority endeavors to bring the benefits of science and technology to the people and state of Arkansas through scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and education.

Board Action 1, September 15, 2000/Bdmtg/News/Communications Manager/e